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Extension Service UPDATE

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Poultry Science and Fur-Bearing Animals

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Introduction

This newsletter is closely following issue No. 6 because: we need to get back on schedule, there is dated material in the meetings and opportunities section, and the file was full again. Of particular interest in this issue is the request for assistance, potential legislation that will dramatically affect our poultry system, and the reminder to be aware of the background of those that request research information.

Request for Assistance

Poultry Times. Alma Bowen of the Poultry Times plans to write an article on 4-H'ers that have gone on to careers in the poultry system. If a poultry project in 4-H, or other youth program, influenced your decision to continue in poultry as a career, please contact Alma. Likewise, if you know of others that are in the poultry system because of a youth program such as 4-H, please provide that information. As you know, 4-H can be a valuable recruiting tool, but is generally the first program to be reduced or eliminated when faced with budgetary restrictions. Alma would like to provide data that supports the value of youth programs to the poultry system. Conversely, if there are negative comments, they need to be heard also. Contact Alma at: Poultry Times, Box 1338, Gainesville, Georgia 30503, (404) 536-2476.

Material Available

(1) Broiler Condemnations: The Agricultural Experiment Station at the University of Delaware has released Bulletin No. 469, Broiler Condemnations: Geographical and Seasonal Differences and their Impact on Broiler Production, by C. M. Gempesaw III, and K. T. Gulczynski. They found that "over 90 percent of the condemnation losses in California, Maryland, and North Carolina were grower-caused. Georgia had the highest percentage of condemnations that were plant-caused." For more information, contact the authors at: Agricultural Experiment Station, University of Delaware, Newark, Delaware 19717-1303.

(2) Rabbit Publications.

A. Dr. Peter Cheeke, et al. have recently published a textbook, Rabbit Production, which discusses all phases of rabbit production for meat as well as show. The book is an update of Templeton's classic book, Domestic Rabbit Production. For further information, contact Peter at: Oregon State University Rabbit Research Center, Oregon State University, Corvallis, Oregon 97331, (503) 754-2263.

Material Available
(continued)

- B. Dr. Cheeke has also written Rabbit Feeding and Nutrition, published by Academic Press. You can order the monograph from Harcourt Brace Jovanovich, Marketing Department, Orlando, Florida 32887-0510; or contact Peter at the OSU address in 2A.
- C. The Journal of Applied Rabbit Research is published four times per year by Peter Cheeke and N. M. Patton, as the official OSU Rabbit Research Center publication. The aim of the Journal is to report to the rabbit industry the latest findings in rabbit research and technology. Articles have a sound scientific base and are written using terminology useful for non-scientists. For further information, or to subscribe, contact Dr. N. M. Patton, Rabbit Research Center, Oregon State University, Corvallis, Oregon 97331.
- (3) The reference textbook, Natural Toxicants in Feeds and Poisonous Plants has been written by Peter Cheeke and Lee Shull. The volume is intended for graduate and advanced undergraduate students. Topics include: Mycotoxins; Alkaloids; Tannins and polyphenolic compounds; Metabolic fate of toxins; and, Natural toxicants and their general biological effects. You can order a copy from: Neil Levine, Academic Department, AVI/Van Nostrand Reinhold Company, 115 5th Avenue, New York, New York 10003, or by contacting Peter at the OSU address in 2A.
- (4) Ground Water Protection Symposium. The role of alternative agriculture in protecting ground water quality is featured in the just-published Volume II, Number 1, issue of the American Journal of Alternative Agriculture. Topics include: an assessment of the extent and implication's of agricultural chemicals in ground water; farming systems and pest control strategies that could protect ground water from farm chemicals; a presentation on outstanding research, information, and public policy needs to move toward a future more protective of ground water quality.

The Journal is a referred quarterly publication of the Institute for Alternative Agriculture and is available by subscription for \$20 per year (individuals) or \$6 per copy (Institutions \$40 per year; IAA members \$15; and students \$10). For information about the proceedings or about a subscription, contact the IAA at 9200 Edmonston Road, Suite 117, Greenbelt, Maryland 20770.

Material Available
(continued)

- (5) Residue Avoidance: A Broiler Grower's Responsibility. Chuck Wabeck and Jim Heath (Maryland) have produced this video that teaches farmers: basic methods of residue avoidance, how to protect their poultry feed and water supply, and how to monitor pesticide use. For more information, contact Chuck, as listed in your directory.
- (6) Pesticide Chemical Fact Sheets Available From NTIS. The Environmental Protection Agency has announced it has made arrangements with the National Technical Information Service (NTIS) to make available to the public all previously issued, as well as future issues, of the agency's Pesticide Chemical Fact Sheets. The fact sheets will be available in hard copy for \$9.95 each or microfiche for \$6.50 each. A copy of the announcement listing the pesticide fact sheets currently available and instructions for ordering is available from this office. Source: National Broiler Council Newsletter, September 11, 1987.
- (7) Development of Alternative Beef Production Systems for the Southeast Using Cotton and Poultry Wastes. R. W. Russell et al., of the Department of Animal and Dairy Sciences, and the Department of Agricultural Economics and Rural Sociology at Auburn University, Auburn University, Alabama 36849, have recently published this 29 page report.. Over 100 different management activities were included in the linear program that was used to select systems that optimized profit. For further information, contact the authors, or the Southern Rural Development Center, Box 5406, Mississippi State, Mississippi 39762.
- (8) A Guide to Program Evaluation and Reporting. The University of Maine Cooperative Extension Service has produced A Guide to Program Evaluation and Reporting. The Guide, is arranged in five parts--Foundations, Planning, Methods, Analysis & Interpretation, and Reporting,--and attempts to provide practical advice to Extension staff members about the central considerations and steps in the program evaluation process, from planning to reporting, and from selecting a program for evaluation to using the evaluation evidence. Built around eight essential steps, the Guide includes worksheets, descriptions of 17 evaluation methods with examples of instruments, and lists of references for further reading. A limited number of copies are available for use outside of Maine at a cost-recovery price of \$14.00. Contact David Sanderson at UM CES, Orono, Maine 04469.

Success Story

Florida Flock Supervisor School. Mike Ouart has provided us with an outline of their workshop, which was held August 26, 1987, at the Suwannee County Extension Office. Representatives from all major broiler firms in Florida attended the one-day workshop, and had a total attendance of 54. Topics they addressed were: the basics of Monitoring Flock Health; Managing the Trade Supervisor/Grower Relationship; Managing the Broiler Breeder Environment; and Management and Feeding Systems to Improve Broiler/Breeder Performance. Resource people were from the industry allied industry, and research, teaching, and Extension faculty members. For more information, contact Mike, as listed in your directory.

Safe Handling
of Fresh Foods

Senator Patrick Leahy (D-VT), Chairman of the Senate Agriculture Committee, last month announced his intentions to introduce broad-based legislation to address problems relating to foodborne illnesses. Leahy said ..."It is clear that current inspection procedures fail to detect bacterial and chemical contamination of meat and poultry"...and "potential problems associated with fish consumption are of equal concern."

The Key points of Leahy's bill would include:

- (1) Establishing animal feeding standards to reduce the chances of feeding deadly bacterial or chemicals.
- (2) Supplement the current inspection process with a random sampling testing system to detect chemical residues and bacteria and establish strict tolerance levels to insure public safety and restore public confidence.
- (3) Create procedures to trace meat and poultry from the processor through to the retail meat counter...a capability that does not now exist.
- (4) Establish mandatory federal testing of fish using statistical sampling methods including federal tolerance levels for dangerous chemicals, pesticides and bacteria.
- (5) Establish an educational program for consumers on how to safely handle and prepare food products.
- (6) Create an employee protection system...a whistle-blower protection section...so that line inspectors can report on improper practices without fear of reprisals by USDA or the plant where they are working. The inspectors are our first line of defense against diseased meat."

Leahy indicated he "will actively seek comments" as the bill is being drafted and will hold hearings on the proposed legislation when completed. Source: National Turkey Federation Newsletter, July, 1987.

Opportunities

- (1) The Department of Entomology at Clemson University has eight graduate assistantships (MS or Ph.D.) available. Seven are research assistantships and one is a teaching assistantship. The assistantships are offered in several different fields including both basic and applied specialties. A student admitted to the program, has free choice in the selection of a thesis/dissertation research problem. Stipends range from \$7-10 K. CRE required. For additional information contact: Dr. S. B. Hays, Head, Department of Entomology, 112 Long Hall, Clemson University, Clemson, South Carolina 29634-0365, (803) 656-3113.
- (2) Georgia. The Extension Poultry Science Department at the University of Georgia has announced the opening of a statewide position as Extension Poultry Scientist. The position is located in Oakwood, and is open at this time. All letters of application, resumes, transcripts and five letters of reference must be received not later than October 15, 1987. Refer to position Number 5114. Qualifications include: a Ph.D. in poultry science or related field; training in biometrics adequate to set up and supervise appropriate data collection and analysis desirable; ability to communicate effectively; and an understanding of, and commitment to, Extension philosophy and concepts. For more information, contact John Casey, Head, Extension Poultry Science Department, 4 Towers Building, The University of Georgia, Athens, GA 30602, (404) 542-1325.
- (3) Kansas. The Land Institute, Salina, Kansas is offering ten internships in sustainable agriculture for the term from February-December 1988. For information, write: The Land Institute, 2440 E. Water Well Road, Salina, Kansas 67401. Please provide this information to your graduate students.

Meeting

- (1) Pennsylvania Capon Conference. This conference will be held from 8:30 until 4:40 p.m. on October 7, at the Thrifti-Inn in Warrendale Pennsylvania. Topics include: how to begin with capons; a panel on marketing; research and field testing with capons in 4-H; rations; and tools to improve capon production. For more information, contact J. Lee Miller, P.O. Box 99, Beaver, Pennsylvania 15009, or Herb Jordan as listed in your directory.
- (2) Florida Poultry Institute. Carroll Douglas provided an announcement of their annual poultry institute, which will be held October 13-14, 1987 at the Holiday Inn-University Center, 1250 W. University Avenue, Gainesville, Florida. Topics

Meetings (continued) include: The future of the Florida poultry industry will be addressed by industry and university speakers; Proper care and handling of hatching eggs; Developing a poultry health program; and Breaking the 3-lb. feed efficiency barrier with commercial layers. For more information contact Carroll as listed in your directory. To register mail \$25 (check payable to Florida Cooperative Extension Service) to Luis Rivera, IFAS Bldg. 639, University of Florida, Gainesville, Florida 32611.

Enclosures John Bezpa, (NJ) has provided two fact sheets, one on the fowl, and one on pigeons, that you may find useful. A copy has been enclosed for your department chairman or project leader.

Beware Callers Posing as Government Seek Research Data. Public and private researchers should be aware that individuals claiming to be representatives of the federal government are telephoning research facilities seeking information as to the names of researchers, levels of grant funding and research projects of the facility. So far callers have identified themselves as representing the FDA "Department of Education," or the "Animal Welfare Information Service" of the National Toxicology Institute." Neither of these entities exist. Employees should be notified that if such calls are received, the caller's identity and that of the agency he or she claims to represent are to be confirmed. It is recommended that only written--and verified--requests for information be considered, and that employees be reminded of company or institution policy on release of information and protection of employees and data. Source: Newsletter published by the Animal Industry Foundation, 1701 N. Fort Myer Drive, Suite 1200, Arlington, Virginia 22209, (703) 524-0810.

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Enclosures